

Message Text

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70

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 OES-03 /086 W

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R 141526Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9372

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05976

GENEVA FOR FRENCH AND OXMAN, US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, MNUC, TECH

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SHIP LIABILITY - BRUSSELS

REF: A. STATE 073148 B. BONN 4415

1. EMB ASST. CAA DELIVERED OUTLINE OF US OPENING REMARKS AT RECENT TRI-LATERAL BONN CONSULTATIONS TO BOULANGER AND UNGER AT THE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY ON APRIL 7. BOULANGER SAID AN INTERAGENCY MEETING ON THE BRUSSELS CONVENTION INVOLVING ALL GERMAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARCH TALKS WAS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME AFTERNOON DURING WHICH HE WOULD CIRCULATE THE US PAPER.

2. BOULANGER WAS NONCOMMITTAL IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY RE AN FRG ANALYSIS OF LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN A WARSHIP RESERVATION, BUT DID POINT OUT THAT EITHER THE FONOFF OR THE JUSTICE MINISTRY WOULD HAVE TO DEVELOP SUCH A PAPER FOR FRG NEEDS. HE PROMISED TO EXPLORE THE MATTER FURTHER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AND WE AGREED TO ANOTHER DISCUSSION AFTER THE APRIL 7 MEETING.

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3. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION FONOFF OFFICIAL BEEMEL-

MANS TOLD US THAT NOTHING DEFINITIVE EMERGED FROM THE APRIL 7 MEETING. HE REITERATED PREVIOUSLY STATED GERMAN PROBLEMS REGARDING THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY REGIME ON NUCLEAR SHIPPING, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE MISSING LINKS IN FRG DOMESTIC LEGISLATION COVERING NUCLEAR LIABILITY MATTERS. SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE THOUGHT THE FRG WOULD CONSIDER ENTERING A RESERVATION ON WARSHIPS WHEN DEPOSITING THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION, BUT IN HIS VIEW SUCH ACTION WOULD NOT IMPACT ON THE CONVENTION AS A WHOLE, BUT ONLY ON FRG OBLIGATIONS, VIS-A-VIS THE OTHER SIGNATORIES. BEEMELMANS ADDED THAT ANOTHER INTERAGENCY MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AS REGARDS THE FRG'S DIFFICULT POSITION. WE POINTED OUT THAT BEEMELMANS' REMARKS RE GERMAN VIEWS UNDERSCORED THE UTILITY OF A GERMAN PAPER ANALYZING THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE WARSHIP RESERVATION. BEEMELMANS SAID HE HAD IN FACT PREPARED A DRAFT WHICH HE WOULD SUBMIT TO THE OTHER AGENCIES AT THE NEXT MEETING IN ORDER TO SEE IF AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED TO CIRCULATE THE PAPER OUTSIDE THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT FURTHER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN US AND FRG REPS WOULD POSSIBLY BE USEFUL.

HILLENBRAND

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